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Thursday, January 7, 2010

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# Mercury & Citizen



Thursday, January 7, 2010

FREE EVERY WEEK

## The past week in NORTHAMPTON Chronicle & ECHO headlines

### Lorry crashes into village business

A cement mixer backed into the Green Chilli takeaway in Earls Barton on Tuesday



### It was just for Christmas . . .

Animals in Need say they have had the worst Christmas ever for dumped pets



### Warning to parents

Parents were warned to be on their guard after an attempted abduction near a town school



# Snow may last until weekend

## Warning to avoid frozen lakes

### WEATHER experts are warning Northamptonshire will be hit by daily snowstorms until the weekend.

Up to eight inches of snow was predicted to fall on parts of the county overnight as Arctic conditions swept across the country.

The Met Office issued an emergency weather warning for Northamptonshire on Tuesday, saying roads could become treacherous.

The forecast warned: "Outbreaks of snow will turn heavy and overnight giving fresh accumulations of 10cm to 15cm in places and perhaps locally in excess of 20cm. This could cause widespread disruption to transport."

Meteorologists at Pitsford Hall Weather Station, near Northampton, predicted temperatures would plummet even further tonight, falling to -5°C.

They predicted further snowfall every day until the weekend at the earliest.

The weather report warned snow combined with freezing temperatures would result in "lethal stretches" on some untreated minor roads and pavements.

Northamptonshire County Council has already predicted that the county's stockpiles of salt and grit are expected to last long enough to keep the county's major roads safe.

The county's fleet of gritters have been placed on emergency standby and had already been fitted with snow ploughs.

Police issued a public warning yesterday, urging motorists to drive carefully, especially on untreated roads. A police spokesman said: "The freezing temperatures mean that ice can be a particular issue whether snow has fallen or not, and so it is extremely important that people alter their driving habits accordingly."



Reader Gary Hiscutt took this picture from his flat window yesterday morning after the snowfall across the county. Email your snow pictures to [editor@northantsnews.co.uk](mailto:editor@northantsnews.co.uk)

PARENTS and dog walkers have been warned to steer clear of frozen lakes in Northamptonshire to avoid potential tragedy.

The sub-zero temperatures have left many lakes in Northamptonshire completely frozen over.

And following the tragic death of two men on a lake in Northamptonshire last month, people are being urged to stay off the ice.

Peter Cornall, from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) said: "Winter is a great time for children and adults to get out and about, but ice-related drownings are entirely and easily preventable. Be very careful around the edges of lakes because snow can obscure them, and keep your dog on a lead."

"Although frozen water can look tempting, there's simply no way of knowing whether it will hold your weight and by the time you find out that it won't, it's often too late."

"Children are among those most at risk because frozen lakes present natural ice skating opportunities."

Mr Cornall added: "In addition to keeping dogs on leads, it also makes sense to avoid throwing sticks or balls on to the ice for them to retrieve."

Schools across the county are also bracing themselves for the expected blanket of snow this week.

Parents have been asked to check [www.northamptonshire.gov.uk](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk) for school closure updates.

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# Air medics launch 2010 fund appeal

**NORTHAMPTON-SHIRE'S** air ambulance was sent on almost 400 life-saving missions last year, the service has revealed.

The Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance (WNAA) was scrambled on 390 occasions during the past 12 months, with the majority of calls to serious road accidents.

The helicopter, which costs more than £4,000 a day to fund, also attended reports of serious falls, heart attacks, incidents of drowning and sporting injuries.

Of the 390 calls received by operators, 101 call-outs were to accidents in Northampton.

Among the logged accidents was a van fire, reports of a victim with burns, as well as industrial and agricultural accidents in Northampton.

The ambulance was



called to the M1 motorway on seven occasions.

Tracy Grunwell, fundraising manager for WNAA, said: "2009 has certainly been a great year for WNAA with hundreds of life-saving missions, many wonderful rescue stories, lots of exciting events and a host of top celebrities supporting us such as Colin Salmon, Ross Kemp and Jo Brand."

She said the task of raising the annual £1.5

million required to keep the air ambulance in the skies was getting harder and harder because of the recession.

She said: "This is definitely a difficult economic climate and as a registered charity it costs us over £1.5 million a year to keep on flying and saving lives."

To support the Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance visit [www.wnaa.co.uk](http://www.wnaa.co.uk).

# Store puts in new bid

**\* BUDGET** supermarket giant Aldi is expected to reveal new plans for a proposed store in the centre of Northampton after the company's previous scheme was criticised by councillors.

The firm revealed plans to build a new supermarket close to The Trumpet pub in Wellingborough Road in June last year.

They were immediately met with opposition from rivals Lidl, which has a store in the nearby Weston Favell Shopping Centre and Legal and General, which owns the Grosvenor Centre shopping mall in the middle of Northampton.

When members of Northampton Borough Council's planning committee discussed the plans at the end of last year, councillors also said they were not happy with the simple design of the proposed supermarket.

In response to their concerns, a 'design workshop' was held with representatives from Aldi, the borough council and the West Northamptonshire Development Corporation (WNDC).

Following the workshop, Aldi is expected to reveal a new plan for the supermarket which it hopes will fit in better with the historic buildings it would neighbour.

In a report on the scheme, which will be seen by councillors next week, borough council planning officer, Ben Clarke, said he expected the updated designs to be published within the next few days.

He said: "Although the design workshop was found to be a positive process, no revised drawings have yet been submitted."

"However, it is anticipated the drawings will be received."



Developers behind the new Aldi supermarket held a public exhibition last year as part of the initial consultation process

Library picture

Concerns raised about the planned supermarket include the way it would fit in with neighbouring buildings and the look of the planned car park.

Mr Clarke said: "The existing buildings which front onto Wellingborough Road are of a high quality design."

"But because of the significant proportions of the proposed Aldi building, combined with a number of relatively featureless elevations, the proposal would represent an incongruous addition to the streetscene."

Despite the concerns about how the supermarket could look, the borough council's planning experts have said the authority should not raise any objections to the scheme.

Their recommendation comes despite concerns from both Lidl

and Legal and General that the store is not needed.

Members of the borough council's planning committee will discuss the plans next Tuesday, but a final decision on whether the development can go ahead will be made by the WNDC later in the year.

The potential development site was formerly home to a Saab dealership and the Evans Halshaw Citroen garage, but it has stood empty since mid-2007.

The site, which at one time was home to Westonia Fisheries, has now been cleared.

Aldi already has one store on the Harlestone Road in Northampton.

The firm's new store would be less than a mile away from the Tesco Extra and Lidl supermarket, which are both based at the

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**NINE 12A**  
6.40, 9.20

**SHERLOCK HOLMES 12A** Contains moderate violence  
11.20am, 2.20, 5.30, 8.30, 9.15  
(AD) Audio Description (11.20am, 2.20, 5.30, 8.30 M only)  
(S) Subtitled Performances (11.20am, 5.30 M only)

**ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS 2: THE SQUEAKQUEL U**  
11.00am, 12.00, (1.30 Sa-Su only), 2.10, 4.20, 6.30

**AVATAR 3D 12A** Contains moderate violence, threat and language  
10.40am, (1.00 except Sa-Su), 2.00, (4.00 except Su), 4.40, 5.20, 7.30, 8.15, 9.00

**AVATAR 12A** Contains moderate violence, threat and language  
12.30

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The new Doctor Who is born – Northampton's Matt Smith in the dramatic regeneration scene from last week's episode of the sci-fi classic

# Whodunnit – our Matt!

**MILLIONS** of television viewers last week tuned in to watch David Tennant complete his time as the star of *Doctor Who* and Northampton's Matt Smith take on the role.

At the end of one of the most dramatic episodes of the programme ever seen, David Tennant's character regenerated into Matt Smith, thrusting the young Northampton actor into one of the biggest acting jobs in television.

Watching him in his home town was an army of former school friends, neighbours and family members.

Northampton School for Boys' drama teacher, Matt Evans, who directed Matt in his earliest on-stage performances, was among the viewers.

The teacher, who has been a fan of *Doctor Who* for the past 30 years, said Matt's brief appearance gave him confidence the show would be a success when it returns in the spring.

He said: "It's difficult to judge from the few seconds he was on screen, but I thought the regeneration sequence was excellent. And, as for the way he seems to be playing The Doctor, it's just Matt Smith being Matt Smith really. He's a very naturally bubbly character in real life and that's what I saw on screen straight away."



Northampton's Matt Smith in his new Doctor garb

The Northampton actor, who grew up in Great Billing, was only on screen for a little over a minute.

And in the tradition of *Doctor Who* regeneration sequences, his first lines were a little unusual, as he described his new body as having legs, arms, hands and lots of fingers, before yelling what it appears will be his new catchphrase "Geronimo!"

Mr Evans said: "They made a clear break with all the old characters and I think that's good."

"They've set things up for Matt to take over and I think he'll give it a real shot in the arm. He's a young guy and I think he'll be a very good Doctor."

"Personally, I couldn't think of a better person to do it."

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source: [www.pilkington.com](http://www.pilkington.com)

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# Village school plans

**PLANS to build a new children's centre and pre-school in the Prince Charles designed village of Upton have been revealed.**

Northamptonshire County Council has revealed plans to build the new centre in the village on the outskirts of Northampton because of fears the current pre-school could become homeless without the development.

In plans put together by the authority, it said: "Upton Meadows pre-school currently occupies one

classroom within Upton Meadows Primary School.

"In September 2010 the school will be at full capacity and will require the classroom back. The pre-school will therefore be homeless."

To prevent the loss of the pre-school, the council has suggested building a new centre on the site of the current school which would provide space for both the pre-school, a children's centre and a number of before and after-school clubs. The plans said: "It is proposed to construct a single storey building to accommodate the children's centre

and pre-school.

"Provision will be made for external buggy storage and outside play areas.

"Four additional car parking spaces will be formed on the side of the primary school's existing external games store, which is to be demolished and rebuilt in a new location."

The council has said the new pre-school building has been specially designed to offer a 'welcoming environment' while also blending in with the current primary school.

Plans for the scheme were put on display at the school during two

open sessions at the end of last year and the authority has said there were no concerns raised about the development.

The council has admitted staff and users of the new pre-school will most probably use cars to get to the centre, but to reduce traffic problems the authority has said staff would encourage users to walk to the pre-school where possible.

The plans were submitted to Northampton Borough Council last month and permission for the development is expected to be given later this year.



■ A children's centre is set to be built in Upton school grounds

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# Kick the habit

**THE head of the NHS in Northamptonshire has kick-started the county's 2010 stop smoking drive by revealing people can save up to £2,000 a year by quitting the habit.**

Latest figures show that 26 per cent of people in Northamptonshire are smokers and so expose themselves to life threatening illnesses like cancer and heart disease.

However, that figure is decreasing with help from the NHS stop smoking service which helped 4,586 smokers give up last year, which also saved them vital pounds during the credit crunch.

John Parkes, NHS Northamptonshire's chief executive, said: "A lot of people wish each other health and wealth at this time of year.

"Giving up smoking can make both those wishes come true. Smoking is one of the biggest causes of death and illness in the UK and

someone smoking twenty a day can increase their wealth by more than £2,000 a year by giving up."

January traditionally sees thousands of people resolve to give up tobacco, but research shows smokers are four times more likely to give up cigarettes with support from the NHS.

NHS Northamptonshire's free Stop Smoking Service allows smokers to talk through quitting with a trained adviser or attend fully supported groups with other quitters.

Alternatively people can visit their GP, practice nurse or pharmacist, all of whom are trained in helping smokers to quit.

For more information call 0845 6013116 or email [smokefree@northants.nhs.uk](mailto:sмоkefree@northants.nhs.uk).

**■ Smokers across Northamptonshire are being urged to kick the habit as part of a new healthy living campaign**



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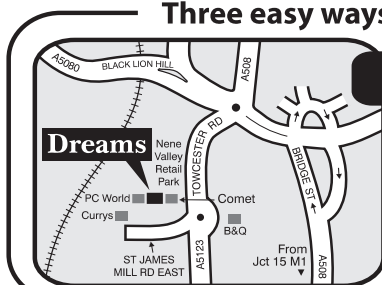
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# Veteran youth worker has died

**A VETERAN campaigner and voluntary worker who was well known across Northampton has died aged 85.**

Briar Hill resident Jim Smith ran a youth club close to his home for almost 30 years and was a regular campaigner for improvements on the Northampton estate.

He died on December 29 and leaves his wife Barbara, a sister, three sons and three daughters as well as a number of grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren. His wife described him as both idealistic and compassionate.

She said: "There'll never be another Jim Smith, he was unique in more ways than one and he'll never be forgotten. He was a legend."

The former commando and Airflow Streamline worker ran a youth club in Briar Hill

which attracted hundreds of visitors until he was forced to retire due to ill health.

He also campaigned tirelessly to get a purpose-built youth club created on the estate, organised regular day trips for pensioners and formed a dance troupe called The Frictionettes.

Following news of his death, tributes have been paid to the campaigner by Northampton South's Conservative MP, Brian Binley. He said: "Jim had a heart of gold, but it was a fighting heart, he hated injustice wherever he saw it. He would fight and fight for the causes he believed and he always stood up to bureaucracy."

"He was a very good man and we became very close friends."

Mr Smith's funeral will be held at Saint Benedict's Parish Church in Hunsbury at noon tomorrow.



■ Veteran campaigner Jim Smith has died, aged 85.

Submitted picture

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# SOS help sought

**A CHARITY which delivers emergency supplies of blood to people in need and breast milk to premature babies is appealing for volunteers in Northampton during their busiest time of year.**

Service By Emergency Rider Volunteers (S.E.R.V) also known as the Blood Runners, was set up in Northampton two years ago, but has been active in other parts of the country for 29 years.

The charity helps the NHS deliver blood out of hours free of charge. They also deliver breast milk for a charity called

UKAMB which supplies breast milk for premature babies.

The motorists give up their time to help others who need emergency supplies of blood.

The volunteers fund the charity at their own expense and rely on donations to keep the service running.

Team member, Brian O'Doherty, from S.E.R.V is desperately looking for more people from the Northampton area to help the lifesaving service by delivering the supplies.

He said: "Over the past few months we have been at our busiest and urgently

need more volunteers to help with the running and deliveries of the blood and donor milk."

The charity helps a number of hospitals including Northampton General Hospital. Mr O'Doherty added: "The hospitals that we help are Northampton, Kettering, John Radcliffe in Oxford, Milton Keynes and Stoke Mandeville.

"But Northampton, John Radcliffe and Kettering have been our busiest."

To find out more or how to volunteer for the organisation visit: [www.serv.org.uk](http://www.serv.org.uk) on the internet. S.E.R.V has its main control room in New Malden, Surrey.



■ Members of Service By Emergency Rider Volunteers are appealing for more help in delivering blood in the county  
CE Picture by LOUISE O'CALLAGHAN

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Thursday, January 7, 2010

## Good size property

**H**AMILTON'S Lettings are offering this home in Ecton Brook for £550 pcm. The home is a good size three bedroom terrace property with front and rear gardens and allocated parking.

The property has been updated to a high standard.

It briefly comprises entrance hall,

large lounge/diner with patio doors to rear garden, beech-style kitchen with tiled floors, two double bedrooms and one single bedroom and a family bathroom with shower over bath. The property has double glazing throughout and has been tastefully decorated. Viewing is highly recommended.



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- Unfurnished two bedroom Victorian terrace house
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- Attractive gardens

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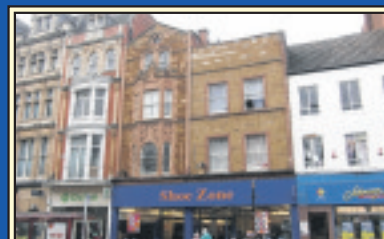
- Unfurnished three bedroom mid terraced property
- Cloakroom, lounge/diner, kitchen, three bedrooms
- Outside there are gardens to the front and rear

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**WOOTTON**

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**£625 pcm**



**ECTON BROOK**

A 3 Bed semi with single garage and driveway. Front & rear gardens, gas central heating and double glazed. Good condition throughout, Unfurnished.

**£610 pcm**



**FAR COTTON**

A 3 Bed terrace house with 3 Double bedrooms, 2 Reception rooms, Kitchen with cooker, Downstairs shower room. Redecorated throughout and new carpets!

**£595 pcm**



**TOWN CENTRE**

A 2 bedroom flat in the town centre with parking. Available either Furnished or Unfurnished. 2 Double bedrooms. Bathroom with a power shower. Good condition, lovely modern flat.

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**SEMILONG**

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**TOWN CENTRE**

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**DUSTON**

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A 2 Bed terrace house with a rear garden. 2 Double bedrooms. Being redecorated throughout and new carpets fitted upstairs. Available Unfurnished.

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A 1 Bed home with off road parking. Gas central heating and double glazing. Redecorated throughout.

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**ABINGTON**

A 1 Bed flat with allocated parking and Double glazing. Walking distance to the Town Centre. Available Unfurnished

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# Family Announcements

Place your announcement by phoning  
**01604 515000**  
 www.northamptonchron.co.uk

## Births



### GROOMBRIDGE

To Michael and Laura (Snutch) a Son **Alfie** born on 3rd January. Congratulations from Mum, Dad & Philip.

## Births



### Dave and Rachael HARROLD

Congratulations on the Birth of your Daughter **Grace-Lily** on Wednesday 9th December 2009. Our first Grandchild. Love Mum & Dad Blood & Natalie.

## 18th Birthday



### LONG

Wishing happiness and good health to Matthew

### 18 on

### 3rd January.

Nan, Auntie Sally, Auntie Helen, Uncle Stuart, Samantha, Melissa, David, Neil, Millie and Lucie.



## Obituaries

**EASTMENT** — Brian died 21st December 2009. Dear Brother of Heather, and Uncle to Josy, Katy and Rachel. God Bless, Rest in Peace.

**JONES** — Bert Passed away 21st December 2009, a wonderful neighbour and friend who will be sorely missed by Nancy and family. RIP.

## Acknowledgements

## Acknowledgements

### HASLOP

The Family would like to thank all concerned for their cards, kind words of sympathy and donations for The Stroke Association in memory of George William. Special thanks to Alibone Ward at N.G.H, S.E. Wilkinsons for their caring support. Also the lovely service from The Reverend Michael Hills.

## Acknowledgements

## In Memoriam



### RODDIS

### June

31.12.08.

Mum, its been a year since you left us and we miss you so much. You're always in our thoughts and our hearts.

Love you.  
Mark, Diane and family  
x x x x x x x

## In Memoriam

### WAITE Ron

1929 - 2009. In loving memory of a Dear Husband, Dad and Grampy.

We cherished 54 years together. It's so hard without you. I miss you so much.

Memories are our greatest treasure. We talk of words you have said. Things you have done. They bring a smile more often a tear. We love you and always will.

Your loving Wife Doris and all the Family.  
xxxxx

## Mercury&Citizen

To advertise telephone  
**01604 515000**

## In Memoriam

**BAKER** — David. Flew away 1st January 2009. Remembered by us all at Pinkham Field.

## In Memoriam

### BONAR Teresa

Born 2nd March 1960  
 Died 3rd January 2009.

I thought of you with love today  
 But that was nothing new  
 I thought about you yesterday  
 And days before that too.

I think of you in silence  
 Though I often speak your name  
 All I have left are memories  
 And your picture in a frame.

Your memories are my keepsake  
 With which I will never part  
 Your soul is in Gods keeping  
 But you are in my heart.

Love forever and always,  
 until you come for me

31Y1W5D5H13M

Pops  
 xx

### DAVIES Ron

Special memories of my darling Husband Ron who fell asleep on 3rd of January 2007.

I miss you so much,  
 Everlasting love

Joy

xxx

A very special Dad to Clare, Ian, Gary & Hollie and a loving Pappy to Eden, Orla and the late Pflon xxx

### BELJERS & FULLTHORPE Natalie

3 years today Nat since you left, I still cannot believe you've gone. All that I know your still watching over us everyday

(White feathers) Miss you so much, every minute of every day, 1 day though we will be re-united From your heatbroken Mum xxx Miss you so much Mummy

Please God look after her we send you lots of kisses everyday Love you lots from your two darlings Nikita & Megan God Bless xxxxxx

**MAULE** — Vera. A very dear Nan to Nick and Adrian. You were so gentle, You were so kind. Such wonderful memories, You left us behind.

## 21st Birthday

### Paula-Jane ZURAWEL

### Happy 21st Birthday!

Have a fabulous day!



Lots of love from Mum, Kelly, Paul, Lara and Hayley

~X X X X X~



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## Wedding Anniversaries

### PACEY - HAMBILTON

65th Wedding Anniversary. On 6th January 1945 at St Giles Church, Northampton, Ronald Pacey to Joyce Hambilton. Congratulations and love to you both. From Val and Stuart,

Katherine, Matthew, Harry and Lily and Keith and Kim.



## Birthdays

### Megan SHORT

Congratulations on your 21st Birthday.

Much love and best wishes.

Love from Dad and Mum xxx

## 18th Birthday



### SPENCER

Happy birthday to a 'Special Boy' My lovely Grandson Jack William Love from Nanny GOTCHA JACK

## 18th Birthday

**Matthew James LONG**  
 3rd January.

Happy Birthday Matthew.

Wishing you lots of love and happiness.

Mum, Dad, Hannah and Luke  
 x x x x



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### WIGGINS Nigel

Passed away on 5/01/09.

Nigel you are always in my thoughts, every day and night Nigel, you are now at peace and not in pain anymore, Rest In Peace. Love always Carol xx



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## Seat Cordoba 1.9TDi Estate

1998, 1 previous owner, 12 mths MoT private plate, FSH, silver, air con, 156,000 motorway miles, electric windows, immaculate condition.

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2003, petrol, 70600 miles, 1.2L, manual, Tax Aug 2010, Mot March 2010, open to sensible offers as quick sale needed

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1.2 Authentique Petrol, 51 reg (2001), 83k, Metallic Gold, Taxed and Tested, VGC

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## Ford Ka 1.3

51 reg, silver, MoT & Tax, pas, radio/cassett, nice condition.  
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**£7553186639**

## Peugeot 106

Zest 3, S Reg, 1998, 49K, Genuine miles, 1124CC, Red, 1 year Tax, 6 month MOT, S/R, C/L, E/W, Stereo/CD, FSH, Excellent condition

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## Vauxhall Astra

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## Road Test

# Chevrolet is looking to spark up the citycars

**H**AVING wowed motorshow crowds with its hydrogen fuel cell-powered Volt, Chevrolet's attempt to grab a piece of the citycar action is called the Spark.

Don't expect too much by way of groundbreaking design or next generation propulsion systems though. The Spark is far more traditional in its approach than its electrically-charged colleague, the key advantage it does have being that you can actually buy one.

Chevrolet's efforts to grow its profile in the UK market were hindered from the outset by its reliance on ex-Daewoo models. Trying to make the best of a cheap and not particularly cheerful model range that had already been intensively marketed as the lowest expense, lowest involvement way into a functioning new car proved challenging.

Where the famous American brand has been able to put its own stamp on its products, the signs have been much more encouraging. The Captiva 4x4 and Cruze saloon both have something to be said for them and the Spark, a compact citycar with MPV tendencies that replaces the long-serving Matiz, is another model for which there are high hopes.

Spark customers don't get any pricey diesel options but they do have a couple of small petrol engines to choose from. The 1.0-litre unit develops 67bhp and for more urgent performance, there's an 80bhp 1.2-litre. These are modern powerplants with alloy cylinder heads, double overhead camshafts and four valves per cylinder. A multi-port fuel injection system works to optimise the combustion process, getting the maximum for each drop of unleaded. A five-speed manual gearbox comes as standard on all the Spark models.

The Spark is clearly designed for travel through the modern urban landscape with all its restrictions on available space. As is the style

## Chevrolet Spark

By Steve Walker



**CAR:** Chevrolet Spark range  
**PRICES:** £6,945 - £9,845 on the road  
**INSURANCE GROUPS:** 1-3 [est]  
**CO2 EMISSIONS:** 119g/km  
**PERFORMANCE:** [1.0] 0-60mph 14s / top speed 95mph  
**FUEL CONSUMPTION:** [1.0] (combined)  
**STANDARD SAFETY FEATURES:** Six airbags, ABS.  
**WILL IT FIT IN YOUR GARAGE?:** length/width mm 3640/1597

with modern citycars, the wheels are pushed right out to the four corners of the vehicle to produce the biggest possible interior within the car's small footprint but also to create a tight turning circle to boost manoeuvrability.

The Spark is 3,640mm long and 1,597mm wide, so it's less dinky than committed citycars like the smart fortwo or Toyota iQ but on a par with other models like the Ford Ka and Citroën C1 which still attempt to offer a realistic four-person capacity with a usable boot. There's a definite MPV aspect to

the Spark's shape, with its flat sides and high roofline helping to make even more of the space available. It's far from frumpy though, with huge headlights, a narrow glass area and a deep front bumper that curves around the car's nose blending with the bulbous wheelarches. A jagged "lightning bolt" line cut into the flank is the signature styling feature.

The cabin area has some engaging features like the instrument cluster that sits on top of the steering column which takes its design inspiration from that of a motorcy-

cle. All of the controls are illuminated in a fetching electric blue when the headlights are turned on and there's the usual array of storage features including a centre console with cup holders and a pot for MP3 players or mobile phones.

Top class safety credentials are a difficult thing to achieve in a small car but the Spark's designers used a number of clever methods to get the results they were looking for. To marry the needs for impact protection and light weight, the Spark is built from high strength steel of varying stiffness.

The structures are robust where they need to be and less so in other areas to channel impact forces away from the occupants. Various crumple zones have been incorporated into the design, there's a pedal retraction system to safeguard the feet of the driver in a front end collision and an array of safety equipment is offered, including six airbags.

The Chevrolet Spark is not particularly groundbreaking about it but with sharp looks, low costs and decent safety credentials, it should be worth a look.

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Leicester, Northampton and Nottingham.

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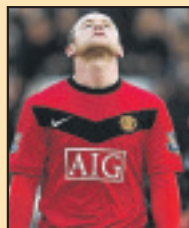
# Sport

## The past week in headlines

At-a-glance sport from the Chronicle & Echo

### Devils stunned

Manchester United were humbled 1-0 at home by Leeds United in the third round of the FA Cup at Old Trafford



### Snow joke!

The weather hit the sporting programme as both Carling Cup semi-finals were postponed because of heavy snow



### He's got the Power

Phil 'The Power' Taylor won his 15th world darts title as he saw off Simon Whitlock 6-2 in the final in London



# Mallinder signs on at Saints until 2013

**SAINTS boss Jim Mallinder says he wants to make the club regular contenders at the top of the Guinness Premiership and in Europe.**

Mallinder signed a two-year extension to his current deal yesterday to quash any suggestion that he might be tempted to join the England coaching team if things go wrong in this season's Six Nations.

The former Sale boss has proved a revelation since taking over in 2007 with the club in National League One. He led the side to an unbeaten season, capturing the National League double, and then revamped the squad to establish the club back in the top flight last season.

Now Saints are fighting for trophies on three fronts. They sit second in the Guinness Premiership, top their pool in the LV= Cup and are well set to qualify for the knockout stages of the Heineken Cup.

Mallinder's commitment to 2013 will be another boost for fans who are riding high after a nine-match unbeaten run, and will help attract more young English talent to the club to follow in the footsteps of Ben Foden and Shane Geraghty.

But Saints have won nothing yet, and Mallinder wants to make sure he fills the dusty Franklin's Gardens trophy cabinet.

"We still have a lot of improvement to make as a team," said Mallinder.

"The players, coaches and all the backroom staff have worked very hard to be in contention in all three competitions we are in this season.

"But I want us to stay at the top end of the Guinness Premiership and become regular contenders in the Heineken Cup over the next three years. I believe we can achieve this, which is why I have decided to extend my stay for another two years."

Saints chief executive Allan Robson said: "Jim has turned the team around in his two-and-a-half years here and the board and I believe he is in the process of building something very special."

Saints are back in Guinness Premiership action this Saturday when they travel to Bath, whom they beat 15-13 thanks to a last-minute Chris Ashton try at the Gardens in December.

Ashton was up to an identical trick last weekend, as his last-gasp touchdown helped Saints to a dramatic 24-22 win over London Irish.



**HAPPY TO SIGN** - Jim Mallinder has put pen to paper on a new deal at Saints

## Cobblers swoop at the double

THE Cobblers have completed a double transfer swoop to bring a new defender and a new striker to Sixfields.

Irish centre forward Stephen O'Flynn has penned a contract until the end of the season, while defender Luke Wilkinson has also joined on a one-month loan from Premier League club Portsmouth.

But a move to bring in midfielder Kevin Thornton appears to have stalled due to a disagreement over personal terms.

For 27-year-old striker O'Flynn, the contract is reward for two spells on trial at Sixfields, during which he did enough to impress manager Ian Sampson.

"Stephen spent a couple of weeks with us just before Christmas and he impressed, so we have moved quickly to get him in as soon as we could," said the boss. "He has a real hunger to do well and to grab this opportunity we have offered him.

"He is a goalscorer and a good finisher but he works hard for the team as well. We know he will fit in well and we are pleased he is joining us and I would like to thank the chairman for his backing in making this move possible."

Sampson was also pleased to have wrapped up the signing of Wilkinson, who watched his new team-mates beat Bournemouth 2-0 at Dean Court at the weekend and will fill the gap on the squad list left when Patrick Kanyuka's deal expires in a fortnight.

"Luke is a good young player who is here to increase the competition," said Sampson.

"He is a confident lad, a good defender and he is here for a month and we will see where that takes us."

The Cobblers, who are now seven points off the promotion play-offs, entertain Chesterfield in Coca-Cola League Two at Sixfields this Saturday (ko 3pm).



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